

KING COUNTY ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

BOARD PLANNING RETREAT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2002

KCASAAB Members Present: Linda Brown, Nancy Code, Pam Detrick (awaiting Council confirmation), Roger Goodman (awaiting Council confirmation), Jim Harbaugh, Joyce Proudlock, Bob Seidensticker, Yasmin Smith, Scott Strawn (awaiting Council confirmation)

KCASAAB Members Absent (Excused): Joan Clement

Staff Attending: Jackie MacLean, Geoff Miller, Rhoda Naguit

The King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB) convened their planning retreat at the House of Hong, 409 8th Avenue South in Seattle at 4:30 p.m.

I. DISCUSSION ON CONCERNS/ISSUES

Handout: RCW 70.96A.310

While dinner was being served, Chairman Harbaugh brought up some concerns and issues that board members had raised as they reviewed the RCW and some of the proposed organizational changes in MHCADSD.

Issue #1:

Contract monitoring responsibility.

Discussion:

Jackie MacLean, MHCADSD Manager, had not arrived yet when the board started their discussion on the issue of contract monitoring responsibility. Geoff Miller, Interim County Coordinator, excused himself from the discussion and left the room.

Chairman Harbaugh stated that at a previous board meeting, Jackie MacLean mentioned a proposal to form a single contracting unit for mental health and chemical dependency contracts under MHCADSD. The board is unsure whether this combined contracting unit will take on the responsibility of monitoring the CD contracts. If this were the case, would this be a violation of RCW 70.96A.310c, where it states that the Alcohol/Drug Program County Coordinator is mandated to monitor the chemical dependency service contracts?

Jackie arrived at the meeting while the discussion was in progress.

Jackie explained how the division currently handles contract monitoring. A Contract Conference Committee, composed of both CD and MH staff, namely; Geoff Miller, Mike Elsner, Karen Spoelman, Russ Goedde, Marty Lindley and a clerical staff, was formed to discuss contract format and boilerplate at the beginning of the contract process. Thereafter, a contract monitoring team, composed of Geoff Miller, Karen Spoelman, Mike Elsner, and all CD contract monitors meets quarterly to review agency performances to make sure agencies are on track in providing services and in their funding spending.

Beginning January 2003, MHCADSD will take over the mental health administrative functions currently contracted with United Behavioral Health (UBH) to save money due to projected budget shortfalls on mental health funding. King County MHCADSD has contracted with UBH for the past eight years.

With the termination of the UBH contract, the division will contract out some of the UBH functions to the provider network and bring the rest in-house in 2003. The plan is for the current MHCADSD contract staff who manage the chemical dependency contracts to be joined with MH contract management staff to become one contracting unit. Having a single contracting unit will mean that both chemical dependency and mental health contracts can be combined into a single contract for those providers that have contracts for both types of services. The change is expected to result in efficiencies for both the providers and for MHCADSD. This combined staff would conduct coordinated contract compliance site visits and provide combined technical assistance to providers. While the board supports measures to increase the efficiency of the contract processes, these changes should not dilute the role of Alcohol and Drug Program County Coordinator in contract development, supervision, and management. This role has historically provided opportunities to offer technical assistance and to build and maintain strong relationships with members of the provider network.

The board asked about Jackie's views of the essential functions or responsibilities of the Alcohol/Drug Program Coordinator in the new organization of MHCADSD. Jackie responded that the Alcohol/ Drug Program County Coordinator would include the following duties:

- Negotiate CD contracts with the State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) on behalf of the Division and work with them on how to split up the State revenue funding.
- Oversee and monitor direct service activities.
- Oversee and coordinate ongoing systems integration activities.
- Prepare and submit the required Biennial Plan to State DASA.
- Produce TARGET report for State DASA.

The deadline for submission of application for the Alcohol/Drug Program Coordinator/ Assistant Manager position is May 1, 2002.

Linda reiterated that per RCW 70.96A.310(d2), the board is mandated to submit their nomination for Alcohol/Drug Program Coordinator to the King County Council, who is the appointing authority for this position.

Based on this fact, Outgoing Chair Jim Harbaugh and Incoming Chair Linda Brown will represent the board in reviewing the job applications. The Division Manager's office will arrange the date and time for this process and will inform the board accordingly.

Issue #2:

Availability of Chemical Dependency (CD) services for working poor.

Discussion:

Due to budget constraint, an overall loss of treatment services in chemical dependency programs is inevitable. The board would like to ensure the availability of alcohol and drug services with emphasis on treatment for working poor.

Issue #3:

Management of CD Funding/Loss of Residential Treatment Capacity

Discussion:

King County Executive Ron Sims announced in a press conference held last week his recommendation for the closure of the Cedar Hills Addiction Treatment Facility (CHAT) at the end of this year and the North Rehabilitation Facility at the end of 2003. There was a discussion on available funding for CD services as a result of pending closure of CHAT and NRF. The closure of the two county-run facilities would save the County \$7M a year. Out of this saving, \$3M is supposed to be reinvested into treatment for county jail inmates with alcohol and drug problems and implementing jail alternatives for offenders. A pilot project is being planned aimed at reducing the adult population such as a day reporting center and expanded work crews. These two decisions seriously limit the residential treatment capacity in King County.

Jackie stated that the county has talked of closing CHAT before but has always managed to find the money to keep it afloat. CHAT's financial woe is partly caused by high cost of treating patients, some of whom are from out-of-state, at a rate which has climbed faster than the state payments. For many years, the county has been subsidizing CHAT at more than \$2M a year to keep it viable. However, with the

county's financial situation getting worse, there is simply no way it could subsidize CHAT operation beyond this year.

With the reduction of funding for chemical dependency services and programs, the board agreed that they should be vigilant in keeping track on where the CD revenue funding is being used.

II. REVIEW OF BOARD BY LAWS

Copies of the Board By laws were distributed for reference. After going through the document, the board decided to form a By Laws Sub-committee which will review the document. The Sub-committee, composed of Jim Harbaugh, Linda Brown, Bob Seidensticker, and Jackie MacLean, will present their recommendations to the board at its regular meeting on July 9, 2002.

III. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN RELATION TO DRUG SENTENCING BILL

Roger Goodman gave a brief description of 2SHB2338 ("Drug Sentencing Bill"), and how it will affect the provision of treatment within the criminal justice system.

The Drug Sentencing Bill contains three major provisions:

- Lowers the standard range sentence for heroin/cocaine delivery, for offenses committed on or after July 1, 2002. For example, a first-time offense will carry a 15-to-20-month sentence, down from the current 21-to-27-month sentence. In addition, "triple-scoring" will be eliminated, whereby prior drug offenses will no longer count for three "points" (leading to much longer sentences), but only one "point" per offense.
- Implements a completely new sentencing "grid" for all drug offenses, effective for offenses committed on or after July 1, 2004. The new drug sentencing grid establishes three basic levels of drug offenses – possession offenses at the lowest level, delivery ("dealing") offenses in the middle level, and drug offenses involving children, violence, deadly weapons and the manufacture of methamphetamine at the highest level. For drug offenses at the first two levels, judicial discretion to order treatment-in-lieu-of-incarceration will be greatly expanded. For offenses at the highest level, penalties will be increased. The 2004 Legislature will have another opportunity to amend this new drug sentencing grid.
- Establishes a new Criminal Justice Treatment Fund that will capture up to \$8.25 million/year in Department of Corrections (DOC) savings, which will be made available for in-prison treatment and for court-supervised treatment and support services (transportation and child care only). The balance of DOC savings is directed into the General Fund. No additional funds are provided for CD

treatment services outside of the criminal justice system. Savings from this Act are prospective only and will begin to accrue only after 2005.

The Drug Sentencing Bill does not provide any drug offender an opportunity for a "clean slate" after satisfying the conditions of the sentence. Criminal records will follow them their entire lives.

DOC savings captured by the Criminal Justice Treatment Fund will be distributed by the state Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) in the following ways:

- 75% will go to counties pursuant to state-approved county plans for the provision of court-supervised treatment services (community-based treatment);
- 25% will go to Department of Corrections for prison-based treatment.
- Of the funds received by the counties from the Criminal Justice Treatment Fund, 70% will be distributed by formula, and the remaining 30% will be made available through grants.

The Drug Sentencing Bill establishes a statewide representative committee including individuals from the criminal justice and substance abuse treatment systems to develop a formula for statewide distribution of funds. The community-based treatment funds will be under the control of the county coordinator and county committee.

The King County Alcohol and Substance Abuse Administrative Board should be able to play an important role in developing proposals from the county for innovative treatment approaches that could receive grants from 30% of the Criminal Justice Treatment Fund that will be available for grant making.

State DASA will form a Joint Select Committee to review and make recommendations for appropriate revisions to the new "drug sentencing grid," including eligibility criteria for court-supervised treatment, the types of treatment offered through court-supervised programs, and possible further sentencing reforms.

The King County Prosecutor is already altering charging and prosecution procedures on the local level. Many, if not most, drug possession cases are pleaded down to misdemeanors (no confinement time), and "cluckers," or facilitators of drug delivery, are now being routed through King County Drug Court (deferred prosecution) rather than being sent immediately to prison. The King County jail is currently operating the "Stages of Change" program for the most highly addicted drug offenders in the deferred prosecution program.

IV. DISCUSS PRIORITY POPULATION FUNDING

Copies of the CD Priority Populations were distributed. See the handout for detailed information.

This material is available in alternate formats. For more information, please contact Rhoda A. Naguit at 206-296-7623 Voice or 206-296-7596 TTY.

Geoff commented that approximately 24.4% of the budget were expended in the first biennial quarter. He stated that contracted agencies, with one exception, are doing well in utilizing Title XIX service funding.

One downside is the loss of funding for TASC. On the TANF funding, State DASA Director Ken Stark is working on retaining its funding. We will know for sure if there is any significant funding loss for the next six months as soon as we receive the contract from State DASA.

V. A LOOK AT HOW INTEGRATION IS WORKING

Handouts: MHCADSD Initiated Integration Efforts; Substance Abuse Current Staffing, Draft Co-occurring Disorders Tier Proposal, 2001 YTD Extraordinary Occurrences

Jackie said that the integration of services and systems is starting at grassroots levels. She gave a brief description of each current initiated integration effort of the division. A more complete description of these integrated efforts will be available at the joint board meeting on May 14, 2002.

While copies of the document containing Substance Abuse Current Staffing were being distributed, Jackie explained that due to budget cuts, the Division would have to eliminate five positions. She is currently in the process of reviewing the staff functions in the light of the need of the Division. The staff reduction is partly due to cuts in housing funding from the City of Seattle and loss of funding for TASC of King County. There is definitely a need to increase revenue in order to retain the current staffing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Jim Harbaugh
Board Chairman

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